

CLAIMS

1. A method of maintaining a selective view of server based data on a client computer system, said method comprising:

obtaining information related to items on the server;  
5 analyzing the information for each item to determine whether the item satisfies predetermined criteria;

downloading the items that satisfy the predetermined criteria; and

10 deleting local copies of items that do not satisfy the predetermined criteria.

2. A method as defined in claim 1 wherein the step of obtaining information comprises:

requesting identification elements for each item located on the server;

5 comparing each identification element returned from the server to identification elements for items located on the client computer system; and

requesting secondary information for each item on the server not found on the client computer.

3. A method as defined in claim 2 wherein the requested secondary information is header information.

4. A method as defined in claim 1 wherein the step of analyzing the information for each server-based item further comprises:

determining whether a local copy of the server-based  
5 item exists on the client computer;

if a local copy exists, comparing header information of the local copy to the predetermined criteria to determine whether the local copy satisfies the predetermined criteria;

10 if the local copy satisfies the predetermined criteria, marking the copy for preservation;

if no local copy exists, requesting header information for the server based item from the server; and

comparing the header information of the server-based  
15 item to the predetermined criteria to determine whether the server-based item satisfies the predetermined criteria.

5. A method as defined in claim 4 wherein the step of downloading further comprises:

marking for preservation a local copy of a server-based item downloaded by the downloading operation.

6. A method as defined in claim 4 wherein the items are email messages.

7. A method as defined in claim 4 wherein the predetermined criteria is date information.

8. A method as defined in claim 7 wherein the items are email messages and the predetermined criteria are selected by the user.

9. A method as defined in claim 4 wherein the predetermined criteria are keyword information.

10. A method as defined in claim 4 wherein the predetermined criteria are item size information.

11. A method as defined in claim 10 wherein the predetermined criteria are dynamically selected by the client computer.

12. A method as defined in claim 1 wherein the predetermined criteria are date information.

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13. A computer program storage medium readable by a computing system and encoding a computer program of instructions for executing a computer process in an email system at a client computer, said computer process  
5 retrieving server email messages from an email server computer, said computer process comprising:

getting a server list of message identification elements related to server email messages;

determining whether any of the server email messages  
10 are on the client computer;

retrieving header information for each server email message not on the client computer;

analyzing the header information and determining whether the server email messages, that are not on client  
15 computer, satisfy the predetermined criteria; and

downloading server email messages to the client computer that satisfy the predetermined criteria.

14. The computer storage medium of claim 13 wherein the computer process further comprises:

testing whether local email messages on the handheld client computer satisfy predetermined criteria;

5 deleting local email messages that do not satisfy the predetermined criteria.

15. The computer storage medium of claim 13 wherein the computer process operation of determining further comprises:

composing a local list of message identification  
5 elements related to email messages on the client computer;  
and

comparing the message identification elements in the local list to the message identification elements in the server list to determine whether any server email messages  
10 are on the client computer.

16. The computer storage medium of claim 13 wherein the computer process further comprises:

starting the computer process by first executing any outstanding synchronization commands between the client  
5 computer and the server computer.

17. The computer storage medium of claim 13 wherein the computer process begins by:

composing a local list of message identification  
elements related to email messages on the client computer;  
5 testing whether local email messages on the local list  
satisfy predetermined criteria; and  
deleting local email messages, that do not satisfy the  
predetermined criteria, from the client computer.

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18. Apparatus for maintaining a selective view of server based data on a client in a network of server and client computing systems, said apparatus in the client comprising:

5 a compose module composing a local item list of local email identifiers identifying those email messages on the client;

a get module requesting a server list of server email identifiers identifying email messages on the server;

10 a compare module comparing server email identifiers to local email identifiers to determine whether a server email message on the server is not on the client;

header request module responsive to the compare module and getting header information from the server for each server email message not on the client;

15 test module detecting from the header information whether each server email message not on the client satisfies a predetermined criteria;

a retrieve module responsive to the test module and downloading to the client server email messages that  
20 satisfy the predetermined criteria; and

a preservation module preserving on the client only local copies of server email messages that satisfy the predetermined criteria.

19. The apparatus of claim 18 wherein said get module comprises:

a transport module sending to the server a request for the server list and the predetermined criteria for  
5 downloading server email messages to the client;  
a filter returning to the client only the server email identifiers for server email messages that satisfy the predetermined criteria.

20. The apparatus of claim 18 wherein the preservation module comprises:

a marking module marking a "keep" flag on local copies of server email messages that satisfy the predetermine  
5 criteria;  
a delete module deleting all email messages on the client not marked with a "keep" flag.

21. A computer data signal embodied in a carrier wave  
readable by a computing system and encoding a computer  
program of instructions for executing a computer process  
for maintaining a sliding view on a client of server based  
5 data in a network of server and client computing systems,  
said computer process comprising:

requesting preliminary information from the server  
related to the server based data located on the server;

detecting from the preliminary information received  
10 from the server whether a copy of the server based data is  
on the client;

determining based on secondary information related to  
the server based data whether the server based data  
satisfies predetermined criteria;

15 downloading from the server to the client server based  
data that satisfies the predetermined criteria; and

deleting from the client all server based data that  
does not satisfy the predetermined criteria.

22. The computer data signal of claim 21 wherein the  
requesting step in the computer process further comprises:

getting server based data filtered so that preliminary  
information only for server based data that satisfies the  
5 predetermined criteria is received by the detecting step.



23. The computer data signal of claim 22 wherein the downloading step in the computer process is verifying that the server based data satisfies the predetermined criteria.

24. The computer data signal of claim 22 wherein the client executing the computer process is a handheld personal computer and the server based data is email.